

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 4349 ACTION SECSTATE 02 APR 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 04349

E.O. : 11652:GDS
TAGS:SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS PROGRAM, MOPSS EVALUATION

1. MOPSS EVALUATION TEAM COMPLETED ITS WORK MARCH 30 WITH DISCUSSIONS OF ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. TRANSMITTED HEREWITH ARE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF TEAM'S REPORT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FULL REPORT WILL BE DISSEMINATED IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING TEAM'S RETURN.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

(A) THE 1976/77 MOPS OPERATIONS IN CULIACAN, MEXICO, HAVE BEEN REVIEWED. THE UNANIMOUS FEELING OF THE AUTHORS WAS THAT THE MOPS SYSTEM HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED EFFECTIVELY TO THE RECENT CAMPAIGN. IN PART, THE INADEQUACY OF MOPS
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WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE SYSTEM WAS INITIALLY CONCEIVED TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HAND ERADICATION EFFORTS AND THAT THE ADVENT OF SPRAY HELICOPTERS HAS EXCEEDED THE SYSTEM'S ABILITY TO RESPOND. A SECOND AND MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM WAS THAT THE CONTRACT STATEMENT OF WORK OVERSTATED THE ABILITY OF MOPS, LEADING THE CONTRACTOR TO MAKE SEVERAL CHANGES WHICH HAVE APPARENTLY

DECREASED SYSTEM ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF PRODUCT DELIVERY. THE RESULT OF THESE CHANGES WAS TO MAKE THE SYSTEM INEFFECTIVE.

(B) THE THIRD DEFICIENCY IN THE 1976/77 OPERATIONS WAS DUE TO THE SEPARATION OF MOPS FROM SPRAY OPERATIONS. THE LACK OF DIRECT INTERFACE HAS LED TO COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS AND HENCE DIFFICULTIES IN PRODUCT INTEGRATION.

(C) THE AUTHORS ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR BELIEF THAT MOPS CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN THE POPPY ERADICATION PROGRAM AND THAT THE NOTED SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES SHOULD BE CORRECTED. A LONGER-TERM OBJECTIVE WOULD BE THE INITIATION OF AN ADVANCED SYSTEM TO OVERCOME THE INHERENT DESIGN LIMITATION OF MOPS AND PROVIDE FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF A GREATLY EXPANDED ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN A COST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

3. CONCLUSIONS:

(A) TECHNICALLY, THE SYSTEM SUFFERS FROM THREE DEFICIENCIES WHICH ARE THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF CHANGES FROM THE ORIGINAL SYSTEM DESIGN. THESE ARE:

(1) THE SYSTEM HAS NOT DELIVERED INFORMATION ON LOCATION OF POPPY FIELDS WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT REQUIRED TO ASSURE THEIR DESTRUCTION BEFORE HARVEST;

(2) AS PRESENTLY OPERATED, MOPS CANNOT PROVIDE INFORMATION, IN OTHER THAN GROSS TERMS, ON THE STATE OF GROWTH OF POPPY FIELDS WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO ASSURE THAT THOSE CLOSEST TO HARVEST ARE DESTROYED FIRST;

(3) AS OPERATED, MOPS DOES NOT APPARENTLY MEET THE ACCURACY CRITERIA OF THE ORIGINAL SYSTEM DESIGN.

(B) THE EXPANDED MEXICAN CAPABILITY FOR POPPY DESTRUCTION
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HAS INTRODUCED NEW REQUIREMENTS WHICH WERE NOT CONTEMPLATED IN THE ORIGINAL DESIGN OF THE MOPS SYSTEM BUT WHICH MIGHT BE MET THROUGH THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.

(C) THE MOPS SYSTEM OPERATIONS IN 1976/77 HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEM DEFINED AS THE SEPARATION OF MOPS FROM SPRAY OPERATIONS AND DIFFICULTIES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO.

(D) MOPS CAN FULFILL A REDUCED, BUT NONETHELESS IMPORTANT ROLE DURING AN INTERIM PERIOD, IF A NEW SYSTEM IS TO BE DEVELOPED.

(E) MAPS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE OF THE POPPY-GROWING ZONES ARE ON A SCALE TOO SMALL AND TOO INACCURATE TO PERMIT READY LOCATION OF FIELDS FROM THE AIR BY SPRAY PERSONNEL.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

(A) TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST IN CORRECTING PRESENT TECHNICAL DEFICIENCIES IN THE SYSTEM.

(B) CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF

A REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM USING NEW TECHNOLOGY WHICH WILL MEET THE FORESEEABLE REQUIREMENTS FOR POPPY DETECTION IN MEXICO AND OTHER OPIUM-PRODUCING AREAS.

(C) TO ELIMINATE THE COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST IN THE PRESENT OPERATION, FUTURE REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE FULLY INTEGRATED WITH PLANNING OF THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN AND SPRAY OPERATIONS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF APPROPRIATE MEXICAN OFFICIALS.

(D) ASSUMING A CONTINUED ROLE FOR REMOTE SENSING IN THE POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, A MEXICAN-DIRECTED AND OPERATED MOPS SYSTEM SHOULD BE GIVEN FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECONNAISSANCE IN A GREATLY-REDUCED AREA. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SUCH TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES AS ARE REQUESTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM. A PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE MOPS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE THE CREATION OF AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND RELATIONSHIPS FOR INTE-
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GRATING AN ADVANCED, LARGE-AREA, REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM INTO THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.

(E) EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF 1:50,000 SCALE ORTHOPHOTO MAPS OF THE POPPY-GROWING ZONE.

5. MISSION COMMENTS: AS MOPSS IS PART OF THE FIRST TOPIC WHICH EMBASSY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL ADDRESS DURING PROGRAM REVIEW, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PERMIT PREPARATION OF USG POSITION PAPER:

(A) TECHNICAL DEFICIENCIES OF PRESENT SYSTEM: REPORT RECOMMENDS USG ASSISTANCE TO EXAMINE, AND CORRECT IF NECESSARY, POSSIBLE SYSTEM ERRORS DUE TO PRESENT FILTERS AND USE OF SPLIT-VERTICAL CAMERA MOUNTS. ARE WE AUTHORIZED TO OFFER SUCH ASSISTANCE?

(B) CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION DELTA IMPLY THAT MOPSS HAS AN OPERATIONAL ROLE PROVIDED THAT A SUCCESSOR SYSTEM IS TO BE DEVELOPED. CAN WE ASSURE GOM THAT USG WILL DEVELOP SUCH A SYSTEM?

(C) CONCLUSION ECHO AND RECOMMENDATION ECHO ADDRESS NEED FOR LARGE-SCALE MAPS OF POPPY-GROWING AREAS. CAN WE ASSUME USG WILL PROVIDE SUCH MAPS?

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS OF MEXICAN INTENTIONS RE MOPSS. THOMSON.
UNQUOTE VANCE.

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